

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 88.1.9.11. Number 595 of the Copenhagen Museum. Collected 13th June, 1851, by Prof. Reinhardt. Received in exchange from the Copenhagen Museum.

Members of this interesting genus are excessively rare in museums, and, so far as I am aware, no other examples of the true *E. spinosus* have been recorded.

Besides the type of *E. laticeps*, the British Museum contains three specimens of *E. spinosus* from Paraguay, and three more have recently come, collected by Herr W. Ehrhardt at Joinville, Santa Catherina.

XXIX.—Remarks on the Species of the Genus *Rheinardtius*.

By D. G. ELLIOT, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., &c.

ARGUS OCELLATUS was founded upon a presumable tail-feather of some unknown bird contained in the collection of the Paris Museum. The name was a MS. one, bestowed by the late Jules Verreaux, but never published by him, and the first description given of the feather was one by myself in the *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1871, viii. p. 119. For many years this feather remained in the bird-gallery of the Paris Museum as sole representative of some unknown but evidently extraordinary species, and when, early in 1880, a complete example of a long-tailed pheasant-like bird was brought from Annam, resembling as regards its tail-feathers the one so long in the Museum, the name *ocellatus* was conferred upon it and a new generic term *Rheinardtius* created for it, and under that name the species has been known up to the present time.

One naturalist, however, evidently did not believe in the identity of the specimen called at present *Rheinardtius ocellatus* with the feather so long in the Museum, for in the 'Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France' Mons. Maingnon named the Annam examples *Argus rheinardti*.

While very familiar with the long feather in the Paris Museum, of which a plate containing a full-size figure is given in my 'Monograph of the Phasianidæ,' I had not until lately had an opportunity of examining the Annam bird and comparing it with the feather called *Argus ocellatus*; but this, through the kindness of M. Trouessart, I have now been able to do, for the single feather, while no longer

exhibited in the gallery of the Paris Museum, is still carefully preserved. My material for making this comparison was ample, for, in addition to two very fine mounted specimens, there were a dozen or more loose feathers brought by the collector.

I was at once impressed by the difference between these feathers, for while the long tail-feathers of the birds from Annam measure $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width, that of the *R. ? ocellatus* only measures 4, the length being about the same. The latter feather does not have the pale grey on both sides of the shaft, so conspicuous on the feathers of the Annam species, this part being much darker, more of a leaden hue, while the small spots are pale clay-colour, not white; these are correctly represented on the plate in the Monograph, although in the description in the 'Annals' they were erroneously stated to be white, an error caused from writing the description in London without having the feather before me. On account of the feather being so much narrower, the two rows of large dark red spots with black centres occupy a much larger space on the feather, nearly half of the entire width of each web, and the red on the inner web is often in irregular lines and blotches; this is also very correctly shown in Mr. Wolf's drawing in the Monograph. In fact, this is in every way a very faithful representation of the original, except in two particulars: the shaft is too large, it being really about the size of those in the feathers of the Annam birds, and also too red, at least as it is now in the original, which is a pale red (it may have faded), a very different colour indeed from the shaft of the other species. The general appearance of the *R. ? ocellatus* feather is a kind of pale greyish-brown, spotted on both webs with small pale clay-coloured dots, surrounded with black, and with large red spots with black centres covering nearly half the width of both webs from the shaft; the rest of the web to the margin is brownish-red, frequently displayed in irregular lines and blotches. It will thus be seen that, while in some respects there is a similarity in the markings of these feathers when compared, yet in their general appearance they are very different, and, in my opinion, represent two very distinct species. Of these one, from an unknown locality, will remain, if it is correct to include it in the same genus, as *Rheinardtius ocellatus*, while the other, from Annam, must be known by the unfortunate tautological name of *Rheinardtius rheinardtius*.